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IN THE CLAIMS

2 1. (Amended Twice) A method for managing access to a logical I/O device, said method  
3 comprising:

4 communicatively coupling first and second nodes, having respective first and second bus  
5 controllers, and said logical I/O device, by means of a bus and said first and second bus  
6 controllers;

7 receiving on said first controller a request to reserve said logical I/O device; and

8 communicating by means of said bus from said first to said second controller a  
9 reservation request for said logical I/O device for execution by said second controller, in  
10 response to said receiving.

11 2. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

12 reserving said logical I/O device for said first node within said second controller, in  
13 response to said communicated reservation request.

14 3. (Amended Twice) The method of claim 2, wherein said step of reserving further  
15 comprises:

16 determining whether said logical I/O device is already reserved within said second  
17 controller;

18 communicating a response, indicating failure to reserve said logical I/O device, to said  
19 first node when said logical I/O device is already reserved; and

20 otherwise, reserving said logical I/O device for said first node within said second  
21 controller, and communicating to said first node a response indicating success in reserving said  
22 logical I/O device.

23 4. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

24 receiving said response to said communicated reservation request;

25 aborting the method for managing access when said response indicates failure to reserve  
26 and said first controller is subordinate to said second controller;

27 otherwise, delaying and communicating again a reservation request for said logical I/O  
28 device when said response indicates failure to reserve and said first controller is dominant to said  
29 second controller; and  
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31  
32

1 otherwise, responding, indicating success, to said received reservation request.

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3 5. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of communicatively  
4 coupling further comprises:

5 communicatively coupling said first and second nodes and said logical I/O device  
6 depending from a multi-logical-device, third controller by means of said bus and said first and  
7 second controllers.

8  
9 6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein after said step of receiving and before said  
10 step of communicating, the following steps are performed:

11 in response to said reservation request, determining whether said logical I/O device is  
12 already reserved within said first controller, and aborting said method for managing access when  
13 said logical I/O device is already reserved; and

14 otherwise, reserving said logical I/O device for said first node within said first controller.

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16 7. (Previously Amended) A computer-readable medium for data storage wherein is  
17 located a computer program including instructions for causing a first node in a computer system,  
18 having a first bus controller, to manage access to a logical I/O device in said computer system  
19 by:

20 receiving on said first controller a request to reserve said logical I/O device; and

21 communicating in response to receiving said request, a reservation request for said  
22 logical I/O device from said first controller to a second controller of a second node for execution  
23 by said second controller.

24  
25 8. (Previously Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 7, wherein said  
26 computer program further including instructions causing access management by:

27 reserving said logical I/O device for said first node within said second controller, in  
28 response to said reservation request communication.

29  
30 9. (Previously Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 8, wherein said  
31 computer program instructions causing said reserving further comprise instructions for:

1 determining whether said logical I/O device is already reserved within said second  
2 controller;

3 communicating a response, indicating failure to reserve said logical I/O device, to said  
4 first node when said logical I/O device is already reserved; and

5 otherwise, reserving said logical I/O device for said first node within said second  
6 controller, and otherwise, reserving said logical I/O device for said first node within said second  
7 controller, and communicating to said first node a response indicating success in reserving said  
8 logical I/O device.

9  
10 10. (Previously Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 7, wherein after said  
11 receiving and before said communicating, said computer program further including instructions  
12 for:

13 determining, in response to said reservation request, whether said logical I/O device is  
14 already reserved within said first controller, and aborting said method for managing access when  
15 said logical I/O device is already reserved; and

16 otherwise, reserving said logical I/O device for said first node within said first controller.

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18 11. (Amended Twice) A computer system comprising:

19 at least one logical I/O device;

20 first and second nodes having respective first and second bus controllers, said first  
21 controller comprising:

22 a computer-readable medium storing a computer program for managing access to said  
23 logical I/O device by a first node in said computer system, said computer program including  
24 instructions for: receiving on said first controller a request to reserve said logical I/O device; and  
25 communicating in response to receiving said request, a reservation request for said logical I/O  
26 device from said first controller to a second controller of a second node for execution by said  
27 second controller;

28 a CPU, coupled to said computer-readable medium, for executing said computer program  
29 stored in said medium; and

30 a bus communicatively coupling said first and second nodes and said logical I/O device  
31 by means of said first and second controllers.

1 12. (Twice Amended) A method for managing access to a logical I/O device, said  
2 method comprising:

3 communicatively coupling first and second nodes having respective first and second bus  
4 controllers, and said logical I/O device, by means of a bus and said first and second controllers;

5 receiving, on said first controller, a request to release said logical I/O device; and

6 communicating a release request for said logical I/O device over said bus from said first  
7 controller to said second controller for execution by said second controller, in response to said  
8 receipt of said request to release.

9  
10 13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein before said step of receiving, the  
11 following steps are performed:

12 receiving on said first controller a request to reserve said logical I/O device; and

13 communicating by means of said bus from said first to said second controller a  
14 reservation request for said logical I/O device for execution by said second controller, in  
15 response to said receiving a reservation request.

16  
17 14. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of:

18 releasing said logical I/O device within said second controller, in response to said release  
19 request communication.

20  
21 15. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said step of  
22 communicatively coupling comprises:

23 communicatively coupling said first and second nodes and a logical device depending  
24 from a multi-logical-device, third controller by means of said bus and said first and second  
25 controllers.

26  
27 16. (Previously Amended) A computer-readable medium for data storage wherein is  
28 located a computer program for causing a first node in a computer system, having a first bus  
29 controller, to manage access to a logical I/O device in said computer system by:

30 receiving on said first controller a request to release said logical I/O device; and

1 communicating by means of a bus from said first controller to a second controller of a  
2 second node a release request for said logical I/O device for execution by said second controller,  
3 in response to said receiving.  
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5 17. (Previously Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein said  
6 computer program further manages access by:

7 releasing said logical I/O device within said second controller, in response to said release  
8 request communication.  
9

10 18. (Amended Once) A computer system comprising:

11 first and second nodes having respective first and second bus controllers, said first  
12 controller comprising

13 the computer-readable medium of claim 16; and

14 a CPU, coupled to said medium, for executing said computer program in said medium;

15 a logical I/O device; and

16 a bus communicatively coupling said first and second nodes and said logical I/O device  
17 by means of said first and second controllers.  
18

19 19. (Original) An apparatus for managing access to a logical I/O device, said apparatus  
20 comprising:

21 means for communicatively coupling first and second nodes, having respective first and  
22 second bus controllers, and a logical I/O device;

23 means for receiving on said first controller a request to reserve said logical I/O device;  
24 and

25 means for communicating from said first to said second controller a reservation request  
26 for said logical I/O device for execution by said second controller, in response to said receiving.  
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28 20. (Original) An apparatus for managing access to a logical I/O device, said apparatus  
29 comprising:

30 means for communicatively coupling first and second nodes, having respective first and  
31 second bus controllers, and a logical I/O device;

1 means for receiving on said first controller a request to release said logical I/O device;  
2 and  
3 means for communicating by means of said bus from said first to said second controller a  
4 release request for said logical I/O device for execution by said second controller, in response to  
5 said receiving.  
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7 21. (Amended Once) An apparatus for managing access to a logical input/output device,  
8 said apparatus comprising:

9 a communications link coupling first and second nodes each having respective first and  
10 second bus controllers to the logical input/output device;

11 input logic on said first controller receiving a request to reserve the logical input/output  
12 device; and

13 communications logic communicating from said first controller to said second controller  
14 a reservation request for the logical input/output device for execution by said second controller,  
15 in response to said receiving.  
16

17 22. (Amended Once) The apparatus in claim 21, wherein the logical input/output device  
18 is selected from a plurality of logical input/output devices coupled with a physical input/output  
19 device.  
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21 23. (Original) The apparatus in claim 21, wherein said communications link comprises a  
22 bus.  
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24 24. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said communicatively coupling further  
25 comprises said logical I/O device is stored on a plurality of physical I/O devices.  
26

27 25. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said communicatively coupling further  
28 comprises said logical I/O device is selected from a plurality of logical I/O devices, with each  
29 logical I/O device defined in part on a common physical I/O device.  
30

1           26. (New) The system of claim 11, wherein said logical I/O device spans a plurality of  
2 physical I/O devices, and said reservation request reserves said logical I/O device without  
3 reserving each of said plurality of physical I/O devices.

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5           27. (New) The system of claim 11, wherein said logical I/O device is selected from a  
6 plurality of logical I/O devices, each of said plurality of logical I/O devices coupled with at least  
7 one common physical I/O device, and said reservation request is executed by said second  
8 controller to reserve said logical I/O device without reserving said at least one common physical  
9 I/O device.  
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